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Minutes 01/06/2009

VISION 2020 ENVIRONMENT TASK GROUP
JANUARY 6, 2009 MEETING

SPY POND COMMITTEE
Town Hall Annex, First Floor

In attendance: Brad Barber, Francis Callahan, Bill Eykamp, Jacob Friis, Joey Glushko, Jane Howard, Elizabeth Karpati, Bob & Harriet Noyes, Steve Ricci, Stroker Rogovin.

Facilitator: Steve Ricci **Minutes:** Elizabeth Karpati

Next meetings: 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays, February 10, March 3, March 31, April 28.

Town Hall Annex, First Floor Conference Room.

Report on December Meeting with MassHighway on Sandbar:

- The meeting was attended by officials from MassHighway and the Town and the Spy Pond and Vision 2020 co-chairs.
- MassHighway has limited funding and “doesn’t do maintenance.” It would be willing to help with something that falls into its domain but the Town would have to do the planning and find the funding. MassHighway claims it hasn’t used sand in 10 years.
- MassHighway seems to like the idea of turning the path area into a linear park and suggested that we should try to get cooperation from DCR. Moving the chain-link fence closer to the Rt. 2 roadway to enlarge the potential park area may be possible.
- Developing a concept for the park is a task for the Spy Pond Committee. Funding could be sought from foundations like Fields Pond or from DCR or under s319.
- Selectman Clarissa Rowe, who attended the meeting, seems the logical person to push this project forward. She and Rep. Brownsberger should be invited to our next meeting.
- Band-aid suggestion if the sandbar won’t be removed anytime soon: Have volunteers dig a channel through the sandbar to connect the almost cut-off corner of the pond with the rest of the water, piling the sand on another part of the sandbar. This would need permission from the Con Com. [Could be most easily done when the pond level is lowered for weed treatment in May.]
- DPW is planning to do some work on pipes near Devereaux Road and will have equipment in the area. Could that work include removal of sand from the delta at Gould Road? Could the permitting for it and any work on the sandbar be combined? Mike Rademacher should also be invited to our next meeting.

Planning for May 9 “Trails Day” on Rt. 2 path:

- Hold plans for repair of pavement until plans for linear park are developed.
- We need a walk-through to see what the possibilities are. Invite Ralph Cadorette and Dave McCoy, an arborist whom Stroker consulted before the first Trails Days; also Clarissa Rowe and representatives from the Con Com and MassHighway. Joey and Stroker will plan.
- For this year’s Trails Day, concentrate on cleanup, pruning back invasives, and maybe adding some plantings, especially near the bench.

Other:

- The **waterbodies fund** now has \$34,000, just about enough to treat Spy Pond without leaving anything for the other waterbodies. Jane has a draft warrant article, to be cleared with the Town Counsel, to ask for \$25,000.
- Last year’s **fertilizer flyer** was reviewed and updates suggested, including listing our meeting dates and advertising the March 28 “Ecofest” and any kayak rentals. Any further suggestions should be given to Jane for forwarding to Dick Terry, who will work on the flyer with Dave Kopans. Mr. Lundstrom’s students will distribute all flyers not attached to the Neighborhood Newsletter.
- **Conditions for weed treatment**, to protect the endangered sedge: Document why treatment is needed (have information from Gerry Smith) and how much the water level was lowered (can take before-and-after pictures of outflow structure).
- **Draft management plan**: postpone discussion if we can get the desired guests to the next meeting.